

February 18, 1958

Dr. Eric French  
Hall Institute for Medical Research  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Parkville N2, Australia

Dear Eric:

Greetings from winter.

The January issue of the Journal of Bacteriology arrived yesterday and contained an article that I knew you would urgently want to see. I am therefore enclosing a photo copy. The article pretty well speaks for itself. I am a little sorry that he does not attempt to measure at least the upper limit of the amount of enzyme produced in the synthetic medium since this is likely to be some small figure other than zero. However it is quite clear that the enzyme is inducible and that the high base level that you had found is due to a stimulatory effect of the constituents of the broth.

While it does appear that this study has coincided with your principle finding of stimulation of enzyme formation by substrate-related compounds, I think it also furnishes a very useful starting point for a more detailed investigation. I would specifically urge on you the trial of a number of chemically defined components, for example neuramin-lactose, neuraminic acid, etc., as inducing agents.

You have published your note on the stimulation have you not?

Anyhow here it is.

I suppose I should take the occasion to remind you that I would be interested in having a sample of concentrated RDE for some very dubious experiments any time you care to send it out.

With all the best,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew  
encl.